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Agenda item 172

NECESSITY OF ADOPTING EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, INCLUDING ARMED CONFLICTS

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its resolution 3318 (XXIX) of 14 December 1974, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict,

Recalling that the Geneva Conventions of 1949 1/ and the two Additional Protocols of 1977, 2/ as well as article 38 of aforementioned Convention on the Rights of the Child, accord children special protection and treatment,

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

2/ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Recalling also the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children 3/ and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 3/ which were adopted at the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990, and stressing the necessity to implement their provisions,

Taking note of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, 4/ on its third session, held at Geneva from 11 to 29 January 1993, in particular its recommendation to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General should undertake a study of the ways and means of improving the protection of children from the adverse effects of armed conflicts,

Recalling resolution 1993/83 of the Commission on Human Rights of 10 March 1993, 5/

Mindful of the strong support of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, for this proposed study, as stated in paragraph 50 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, 6/

Profoundly concerned about the grievous deterioration in the situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts, and convinced that immediate and concerted action is called for,

Convinced that children affected by armed conflicts require the special protection of the international community and that there is a need for all States to work towards the alleviation of their plight,

Recognizing the valuable work done by United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in this field,

1. Expresses grave concern about the tragic situation of children in many parts of the world as a result of armed conflicts;

2. Calls upon States fully to respect the dispositions contained in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two additional Protocols of 1977, as well as in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which accord children affected by armed conflicts special protection and treatment;

3. Urges all Member States to continue seeking comprehensive improvement of this situation, taking appropriate and concrete measures to alleviate it;

3/ A/45/625, annex.

4/ CRC/C/16.

5/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3 (E/1993/23), chap. II, sect. A.

6/ A/CONF.157/23.

4. Requests bodies and organizations of the United Nations, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, within the scope of their respective mandates, to cooperate in order to ensure a more effective action in addressing the problem of the children affected by armed conflicts;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on those concrete measures, related to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the present resolution, which have been taken to alleviate the situation of children in armed conflict;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its third session and the recommendations contained therein concerning the situation of children affected by armed conflict;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint an expert, working in collaboration with the Centre of Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund to undertake a comprehensive study of this question, including the participation of children in armed conflict, as well as the relevance and adequacy of existing standards, and to make specific recommendations on ways and means of improving the protection of children in armed conflicts and on measures to ensure effective protection of these children and to promote their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration, taking into account the recommendations by the World Conference on Human Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

8. Requests Member States and United Nations bodies and organizations, as well as other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross to contribute to this study;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on this study to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

10. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to consider the study at its fifty-first session;

11. Decides to consider this question at its forty-ninth session under the item entitled "Necessity of adopting effective measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of children throughout the world who are victims of especially difficult circumstances, including armed conflicts".